Constitutional Issues and Society Syllabus

Mr. Vanfossan

Underwood High School

Constitutional Issues and Society

Course Description:

This elective course will focus on the Constitution and its role in American society. Students in this class will increase their knowledge of how the justice system in the United States works. While studying this, students will be able to interpret and understand landmark court cases and how they impact society today. We will also focus on state courts and law enforcement that enforces these laws.

Outcomes:

* Summarize landmark court cases and how these impacted society then and now
* Distinguish between criminal, civil, and constitutional law
* Understand the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States
* Understand the role of law enforcement in society today

Grading:

Grading will be done per the handbook: 90-100%=A, 89-80%=B, 79-70%=C, 69-60% D and 59% and below F. Extra Credit will be given at the teacher’s discretion. The student must come up with the extra credit and not depend on the teacher to come up with something. Reasons for not getting extra credit may be but not limited to: too many zeroes, lack of effort, and no need.

Attendance/Tardiness:

Attendance and tardiness will be dealt with per the student handbook.

Speakers:

As appropriate, we will have guest speakers and possible field trips

Course Outline:

1. Introduction
   1. Why Law? The purpose of law and the history of law
   2. How and why laws are created, kind of laws, philosophies
   3. Different levels of criminal justice
2. Constitutional Law
   1. Amendments: 1, 4 and 5
   2. Amendments: 6,7, and 8
   3. Amendments: 2, 3 and 14
3. Criminal Law
   1. Nature of Crime
   2. Crimes against the person/property
   3. Arrests and the court proceedings
   4. Punishments and Juvenile Justice
4. Civil Law
   1. Introduction to civil courts
   2. Lawsuits
   3. Social issues
5. Court Systems around the World